January 2020

Happy New Year!

I am so pleased to present the 10th issue of *NJ Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. As you can see from our table of contents, it is another dynamic and thought-provoking issue, covering topics such as the environment; architecture; women’s rights and gender relations; slavery, segregation, race, and inequality; epidemiology; and more. I am so grateful to the authors who have chosen to publish their important work with us, and I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I have.

Some of you might recall that in my last letter from the editor, in July, I shared a link to an anonymous survey that allowed readers to share feedback on the Journal. I am happy to say it was all quite positive. The constructive comment I saw most pertained to our layout. Why do our articles look like papers, instead of the traditional journal? Sure, it would be relatively easy for me to turn this:

Beatrice Winters, Librarian, Museum Director, and Advocate for Women’s Equality

By Timothy J. Crist

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/njs.v5i1.200](http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/njs.v5i1.200)

Beatrice Winters (1869-1947) was a woman of fierce intelligence who used her extraordinary aptitude for managing organizations to help establish both the Newark Public Library and the Newark Museum. In 1915, Mayor Thomas Raymond appointed her to the Newark Board of Education, making her the first woman to serve on a Newark board or commission, in what she said was “quite a victory” for suffragists. She was called “the busiest woman in Newark” by a local newspaper in the 1930s when she served simultaneously as Librarian and Director of the Newark Museum, as trustee of Dana College and later the University of Newark, and leader or participant in a host of other projects and organizations. When the newly formed University of Newark conferred an honorary doctorate on her in 1937, in the same group with Louis Bamberger, she was cited as “an ideal public servant and a luminous personality.”

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Into this:

Beatrice Winser: Librarian, Museum Director, and Advocate for Women’s Equality

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This paper draws on the extensive archival materials about Beatrice Winser at the Newark Public Library, the Newark Museum of Art, and the New Jersey Historical Society to discuss her pioneering work with the Newark Public Library and her advocacy for women’s rights in the first decades of the 20th century.

In the spring of 1938, Althea Warren, the director of the Los Angeles Public Library, toured

…in Microsoft Word (although this would become much more complicated in articles that use images). But I’d ask that we stop and ask why the second look is the “gold standard” for journals. Didn’t that “journal” look (which often means terribly small font, single spaced, sometimes with two columns per page) emerge primarily to save space/money when printing? Since we are all digital, why don’t embrace it - and save our eyes?

Speaking of the internet: remember, we are on Facebook! So, if you are a user of that platform, we hope you will engage with our page to help us promote all of this fabulous scholarship. We may expand to other platforms in the future. This was another thing suggested in the survey; and it certainly makes sense. We just need to ensure someone has the time to devote to it!

As always, this issue would not have been possible without our blind peer reviewers. I regret that I cannot thank them by name, but they generously shared their time and talents to ensure that every article presented to you here represents the highest levels of scholarship. In many cases, our authors made important revisions to their work thanks to suggestions made by the anonymous reviewers. Many articles are still out for revisions, and I am so excited about the work in the pipeline that I hope to bring to you in future issues.
I am grateful to Sara Cureton, Richard Veit, and Maxine Lurie of the New Jersey Historical Commission for their invaluable support, along with Jeffery Triggs at our co-sponsor, Rutgers University Libraries.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank Monmouth University for supporting my participation in the Journal, specifically Dr. Chris DeRosa, Chair of the Department of History and Anthropology; and Dr. Kenneth Womack, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

We are currently accepting submissions on a rolling basis. Please be sure to adhere to the submission guidelines posted here. Don’t have a submission, but want to get involved? Email me to sign up as a peer reviewer. NJ Studies is truly a team effort!

Happy Reading!

v/r,

Melissa Ziobro
Editor
New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal